transmitting data from a first device to a second device, the first device being synchronized, the first device having received from the second device a synchronization signal indicating that the second device is synchronized.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein, in the step of transmitting data, the synchronization signal includes at least one of a synchronization request from the synchronized second device and a start-of-packet indicator from data transmitted by the second device.

19 (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising: becoming unsynchronized at a device in response to receiving a loss-of-synch signal.

20 (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the loss-of-synch signal. is generated by a deserializer included in the device.

21 (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

detecting a bad control word at a first device from a second device; and

requesting synchronization from a first device to a second device, the first device having received a bad control word from the second device.

22 (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein

the word units include serializers and deserializers that satisfy a SERDES specification for control characters,

a bad control word received by a device is inconsistent across deserializers of the device.

23 (Currently Amended) A method for detecting and adapting to a loss of word synchronization at a first word device, the first word device being synchronized and connected to a second word device by a plurality of serial lines, the method comprising:

becoming unsynchronized at the first device in response to receiving a loss of synch signal from at least one of the serial lines connected to the second device; and

becoming unsynchronized at the first device in response to receiving a threshold number of bad control words from the serial lines connected to the second device, wherein consecutive bad control words are unseparated by a synchronized data packet.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein

the first word device and the second word device each include a plurality of serializers and deserializers;

the serial lines connect the serializers of the first word device to the deserializers of the second word device and the serializers of the second word device to the deserializers of the first word device; and

the serializers and the deserializers of the first and second devices satisfy a SERDES specification for control characters.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 23, wherein the threshold number of bad control words is one.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 23, wherein the threshold number of bad control words is greater than one.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~ 23, wherein

the first word device and the second word device each include a plurality of serializers and deserializers;

the serial lines connect the serializers of the first word device to the deserializers of the second word device and the serializers of the second word

device to the deserializers of the first word device; and

the serializers and the deserializers of the first and second devices satisfy a SERDES specification for control characters.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the threshold number of bad control words is one.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the threshold number of bad control words is greater than one.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting and adapting to a loss of word synchronization at a first word device, the first word device being synchronized and connected to a second word device by a plurality of serial lines, the method comprising: becoming unsynchronized at the first device in response to serially receiving a threshold number of bad control words from the serial lines connected to the second device, ~~wherein consecutive bad control words are not separated by a synchronized data packet~~ except for the single condition that all bad control words received in the threshold number are separated by a synchronized data packet.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the threshold number of bad control words is one.

33. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the threshold number of bad control words is greater than one.

34. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein

the first word device and the second word device each include a plurality of serializers and deserializers;

the serial lines connect the serializers of the first word device to the

deserializers of the second word device and the serializers of the second word device to the deserializers of the first word device; and

the serializers and the deserializers of the first and second devices satisfy a SERDES specification for control characters.

B1 cont.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the threshold number of bad control words is one.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein the threshold number of bad control words is greater than one.

Cancel claims 37-41